

Filed for intro on 05/01/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 659
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ms. Elizabeth Wiggins of Monterey.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those sterling individuals who, through their hard work, expertise, and dedication, are credits to their families, communities, and this great state; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Elizabeth Wiggins is most assuredly one such remarkable person deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, in 1911, Elizabeth Wiggins was born prematurely and weighed a mere two-and-a-half pounds. Even after such a difficult start in life, nearly nine decades later, she still resides in Monterey and has enough fascinating stories to write a book with topics ranging from family history to local politics to world geography; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Wiggins is one of six children who lived in a large old house on Woodcliff Road surrounded by eleven acres that fed the family during the depression and overlooked the railroad tracks; and

HJR0659

01303185

WHEREAS, the railroad was always a significant feature in Ms. Wiggins' life; her father, Will Wiggins, worked for the Tennessee Central Railroad for fifty years, having started as a fireman shoveling coal, and finally serving as the night foreman at the roundhouse; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wiggins fondly reflects on going to work with her father along with her other siblings to see the trains; after her father retired he would sit in their yard and watch for the trains to come by; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Wiggins and her father often saw the crew members, men who were like family, pass by waving and yelling greetings; an engineer would even jump off to visit and jump back on when the caboose came by; and

WHEREAS, a remarkable lady committed to educating children, Ms. Wiggins dedicated more than 40 years of her life teaching the second grade; she began in 1937 at rural schools in the eastern part of Putnam County and then transferred to the Monterey city schools; and

WHEREAS, the first Monterey school was located on West Crawford Avenue; Ms. Wiggins was one of the first teachers on the faculty of the new Uffelman Elementary School when it opened, and she still teaches there today as a volunteer on every Thursday during the school year; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wiggins is actively involved in the community; she is a valued member of the Monterey Garden Club, Delta Kappa Gamma teachers' association, and participates in countless church activities; and

WHEREAS, another of her passions is traveling; Ms. Wiggins boasts of having been to every state in the union except Hawaii and to all the continents except Africa and Antarctica; her lifelong love of the railroad shines through in her travels as she often chooses trains for her excursions that have included, the Rocky Mountains and treks all over the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable lady's youthful spirit and adventuresome nature are even more evident in her desire to travel in space; and

WHEREAS, she clearly has as much enthusiasm for the future as she does a love for the past and present; she has several plans, including possibly rebuilding her family homeplace that was destroyed in a fire twenty years ago; and

WHEREAS, she attributes her long and healthy life to the lifestyle she maintains; she walks a mile and a half every day, and does not smoke or cuss or drink; although she is a big believer in the Blackberry Brandy Cure for the flu or a bad cold; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wiggins takes pleasure in each and every day; she is happy to share the love and companionship of her large family and wonderful friends; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Wiggins is a never-ending source of inspiration to those who know and cherish her and is tremendously admired by friends and family; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life, Ms. Wiggins has adhered to the common sense approach and has displayed the common touch in all endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Wiggins personifies the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded as a friend, educator, and good neighbor, Elizabeth Wiggins is the perfect example of a person totally committed to the highest ideals of service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Ms. Elizabeth Wiggins, applaud her for her shining example of living and loving life to the fullest, and extend our best wishes for success in all her future endeavors.